

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather and Overview: The trend of cool temperatures and wet conditions continued throughout the State, though somewhat less so than the previous week. Field work and planting continue to be delayed as a result, but vegetable and grain crops benefited from the rain. Several counties experienced heavier precipitation over the weekend. Total April rainfall was reported at 0.5 inches above average in Harney County. Pasture and range conditions that are below normal were more affected by cooler temperatures than the precipitation. The Dalles reported 55 growing degree days, 34 above normal. Coastal area weather stations reported as much as 1.76 inches of precipitation, and south central stations all reported air temperatures below normal.

Field Crops: Spring planting continued State wide as weather permitted. Rain east of the Cascades has improved outlook for field crops but has also slowed spring planting. In Sherman County, the winter wheat crop is expected to be shorter than normal but should have average or better yields. Cheat grass has started to head out and cereal rye was in boot stage. In Wasco County, alfalfa was in the bud stage and the first hay cutting is expected soon. In the Willamette Valley, winter wheat was still showing stress because of too much water, especially in low areas of fields. Grass seed fields were doing well with the extra water. Dryer conditions are needed to complete spring planting. In Lane County, peppermint fields were being burned for rust control. In Marion County, growers were finishing up with fertilizer and herbicide applications on grass seed fields and wheat. Hop yards were being strung and rust sprays were being applied to mint fields. In Washington County, crimson clover was showing bud and red clover and alfalfa were growing rapidly.

Vegetables: Vegetable growers were another week behind due to cool, wet weather. Processed vegetables and cole crops were estimated to be four weeks late in Willamette Valley areas. Rhubarb harvest was underway. In Jackson County, most onion fields were seeded and most sweet corn was planted on well drained fields. In Deschutes County, showers had delayed some potato planting; however, Morrow County potato planting was mostly finished with plants emerging.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Shipments of balled and burlaped and container material are slowing down. Greenhouses were shipping bedding plants to retail outlets; however, home gardeners were slowed down with too much rain. Spring plant sales were going strong with five or six major sales last weekend in the Portland area. Christmas trees are budding.

Fruit: Most fruit trees in Clackamas County were past full bloom. Strawberry bloom in the area has developed slowly. Lane County apples, pears, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries were in full bloom. Washington County growers dusted and flailed hazelnuts. Some growers applied their final Eastern Hazelnut Blight spray in Yamhill County. Wasco County cherries were developing rapidly. Jackson County orchardists completed petal fall sprays.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: In eastern Oregon, the condition of livestock was good to excellent. Branding and turnout was underway. Range conditions were limited somewhat by lower temperatures. In western Oregon, livestock appeared to be in good condition. Dairies were a month late getting green chop started due to wet fields and some dairy pastures were too wet for grazing. Beef cows were out on drier pastures but there was some concern to damaging the grass on saturated soils. Supplemental feeding continued. Pasture and range conditions were below normal in coastal areas due to cool temperatures and rainfall.

Crop Progress Week Ending 5/4/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley planted (%)	69	67	86	88
All Barley emerged (%)	47	44	68	--
Spring wheat planted (%)	90	88	99	76
Spring wheat emerged (%)	62	52	91	--
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.6	4.7	--	--

Soil Moisture Week Ending 5/4/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	0	12	77	11
Subsoil (%)	3	22	67	8

Crop Condition Week Ending 5/4/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat %	--	5	56	32	7
Barley condition %	--	4	52	37	8
Range & Pasture %	2	11	36	46	5

CLACKAMAS: Winter wheat still showing some yellowing effects from the continued cool, wet weather. Hay crops are growing quite well. Still too much soil moisture for much tillage. Some fields too wet for fertilizer or spray rigs. Low spots in wheat fields distinctly yellow. Strawberry bloom developing slowly. Raspberry buds showing. Bloom past for most tree fruit, but set is still in question. Vegetable planting is lagging behind due to wet soil. Rhubarb harvest is underway. Most nursery activity on potting and repotting. Limited shipments continue on order. Greenhouses are supplying vegetable and floral material to local outlets. Livestock all appear to be in good condition. Dairies are a month late getting green chop started due to wet fields. Dairy pastures were too wet for grazing; some are short of forage and forced to buy hay. Beef cows are out on hill pastures but are damaging the grass on saturated soil. These fields will be rough for years to come. Spring grain planting dates are passed, as are early cannery corn/bean planting dates. The current weather pattern of cool, wet days is putting many growers behind schedule and delaying crop progress.

COOS/CURRY: Pasture and range conditions remain below normal due to cool temperatures and rainfall. Low lands along rivers and streams or with poor drainage remain inundated by rainfall and cattle numbers (on pasture) remain substantially below normal. Brookings: Precipitation for the period was 2.08 inches compared to an average of 0.63 inches. Weather year precipitation continues to close on average. Bandon precipitation for the period was 0.98 inches compared to an average of 0.72 inches.

JACKSON: Occasional rains during the week prevented much field work from being done. Growers completing petal fall sprays. Most onions seeded. A small amount of sweet corn seeded on well drained soils.

JOSEPHINE: Blustery May 1 and then it started raining. Another week of appreciable precipitation. Mostly showers but heavy precipitation when it rained. Really too early and too wet to work ground right now. Fruit trees continue blooming quite well. Wind blowing blossoms all around.

LANE: Peppermint - fields being burned for rust control. Apple and pear trees in full bloom; being pollinated by bees. Break in weather is needed. Blueberries in full bloom. Some frost damage. Raspberries have a moderate first bloom set. Blackberries - looks like a big crop. Strawberries were starting to set bloom. Vegetable ground being plowed this week. One of the first fields to get plowed was on April 28. Ground all over the valley worked on Friday and during the weekend. Corn and green beans going in as soon as weather permits. Processed vegetables and cole crops will be four weeks late. There will be lot of produce all coming on starting in 45-60 days.

MARION: Field work continued as weather improves and soils dry out. Most growers were finishing up with fertilizer and herbicide applications on grass seed fields and wheat. There were reports of rust showing up in a few perennial ryegrass and fine fescue fields. Many of the hop yards are being strung. Early rust sprays being made to a few mint fields. Some vegetable field spring plowing started and then halted by more rain. Most soils are still too wet to plant. Nursery stock being shipped.

WASHINGTON: Crimson clover showing buds. Red clover and alfalfa continued rapid growth. Sugarbeets for seed being fertilized and advancing well. Strawberries and blueberries blooming well. Walnuts starting to leaf out. Dusting and flailing hazelnuts. Rhubarb harvest nearing, some bolting in fields. A few vegetables planted in the cold and wet spring. Huge sales of sets, containers and bedding plants occurring in all areas. Shipping balled trees and large shrubs. Weed control practice underway. Supplemental feeding continued and pastures being grazed on drier fields. Fertilizing when not too wet. Sunny one day. Had .0.7 of an inch of rain. Cool but no frost. First farmer's markets of the year started.

YAMHILL: Mostly rainy conditions with a day or two of sun. Winter wheat is showing stress of too much water on fields that don't drain well. Grass seed fields are loving the extra water. Need dry spell to complete spring planting. Unknown how the rainy April will affect the orchard crops at this point. Reports coming in of possible prune and peach losses from frosts in late March. Some hazelnut growers applied their final Eastern Filbert Blight spray of the season this week.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Potato planting fully underway. Some grain seeding being completed. Bedding plants being shipped. Branding and turnout underway.

DESCHUTES: Showers have delayed some potato planting.

GILLIAM: Continuing showers and cooler temperatures have improved outlook for crop. Rangeland pastures improving.

HARNEY: Crops growing, some irrigating beginning. Turn-out continued, although some BLM permits were either delayed turn-out or suspended. Stock water was better but still limited on some desert ranges. Flood irrigation of meadows better than anticipated. April rainfall ended over 0.5 inches above average.

KLAMATH: Livestock conditions are good to excellent. Limited hay feeding continues. Most livestock are on pasture. Wet weather has further delayed spring planting.

LAKE: Received a lot of moisture over the past few weeks. Range conditions have been limited somewhat by lower temperatures more than by lack of moisture.

MALHEUR: Sugarbeet planting done except for occasional straggler fields; condition good. A few were replanting fields due to various reasons. Herbicides working; scattered showers helped herbicides and growing conditions. Temperatures below normal. Light frost most nights. Widely scattered showers helping range conditions.

MORROW: Potato planting finished and emerging. We continue to get rain. Our moisture is good considering the drought the county has been through. There should be good pasture in the mountains if the rain continues.

SHERMAN: April ended with the fourth thunderstorm of the month. One is rare at this time of year. April showers were very scattered and ranged in total precipitation widely, even in short distances. Welcomed showers benefitted spring seeded grain and kept the winter wheat growing. Winter wheat crop will be shorter (not as tall) than normal but has good color and canopy at this time. Expect average or better yields. First cheat grass started heading last week. Cereal rye in boot, will head soon. Field work continued. Everything is green and those spring sprinkles just keep coming. Only complaint is that the cooler weather has slowed plant growth in both fields and rangeland. Actually heard someone say that the rains have kept him from going into the fields. Most all initial spring tillage work is done and round two of tillage operations has started in earnest.

UNION: Cold, wet weather continued to delay spring plantings. Moisture is helping crops that are in. Showers continued daily with heavier rain on the weekend.

WALLOWA: The spring crops are getting put in the ground between showers. It has rained off and on all week. The moisture level is good right now. The fall wheat is looking good but not growing much for lack of heat. The pasture still needs some warm weather to get growing good but has got some growth to it. Livestock is still being fed in most parts of the county, but there are some out on pasture.

WASCO: The winter wheat crop is putting on height fast and looks very good to date. Field work included moldboard plowing and weed spraying on both no-till stubble fields, plus eradicating weeds in the current wheat crop. Spring seeding nearing completion and early spring seeded fields are turning green. Several rain showers this week have kept all grain crops in good to excellent condition. Alfalfa crops are in the bud stage and first hay cutting is expected in the next two weeks. Cherries are developing rapidly. Orchard activities this week included mowing grass strips between tree rows, and some spraying. Pasture grasses still flushing in growth and starting to head out. All livestock are doing well.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING May 4, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	40	64	52	3	16	2	0.89	0.08	3	57.15	-1.80	97	150
Crescent City	42	61	53	2	20	-2	1.72	0.95	5	57.90	-2.13	96	112
Florence	36	69	52	1	14	0	1.29	0.32	3	73.89	5.24	108	136
North Bend	43	66	52	1	16	1	1.48	0.68	4	63.41	5.57	110	133
Tillamook	36	66	51	2	12	5	1.76	0.64	2	80.30	2.04	103	143
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	43	75	55	4	37	16	0.20	-0.29	1	32.62	-5.79	85	110
Eugene	39	71	53	0	21	-7	0.58	0.02	3	39.17	-5.34	88	129
Hillsboro	40	70	54	3	29	6	1.05	0.64	4	35.32	2.13	106	130
McMinnville	37	73	54	2	29	1	0.86	0.37	5	38.26	-1.08	97	134
Portland	43	71	56	3	40	7	0.66	0.17	4	32.06	0.74	102	130
Salem	39	72	53	2	25	4	0.69	0.22	4	37.24	2.36	107	133
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	35	71	52	-4	17	-28	0.65	0.35	5	32.42	3.63	113	103
Medford	39	71	54	-1	26	-13	0.73	0.48	5	21.90	5.24	131	98
Roseburg	43	73	54	0	27	-8	0.51	0.09	4	31.39	1.80	106	119
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	34	70	49	2	6	-1	0.76	0.48	4	10.69	-0.13	99	90
Heppner	37	73	53	2	24	0	0.42	0.10	5	10.54	-0.16	99	92
Hermiston	36	76	56	1	43	-1	0.20	0.03	2	7.37	0.02	100	71
John Day	33	63	47	-4	2	-13	0.73	0.40	5	9.76	0.62	107	88
Moro	34	72	52	2	16	2	0.08	-0.06	2	9.56	0.50	106	71
Pendleton	40	72	54	1	32	-4	0.26	0.01	3	10.57	0.90	109	89
The Dalles	43	77	58	8	55	34	0.12	-0.02	2	13.71	3.19	130	83
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	24	68	46	-2	6	-1	0.02	-0.12	2	5.94	-3.14	65	52
Burns	27	65	44	-3	2	-11	0.30	0.11	3	6.67	-0.54	93	70
Klamath Falls	27	60	43	-6	0	-14	0.60	0.45	6	10.27	-0.81	93	78
Lakeview	27	55	41	-7	0	-13	0.12	-0.16	2	3.48	-8.82	28	43
Redmond	28	70	47	-2	2	-9	0.23	0.09	4	4.89	-1.32	79	62
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	28	64	46	-4	0	-14	0.34	0.13	4	5.94	-0.89	87	77
Joseph	30	60	44	-1	0	0	1.29	0.87	5	15.96	-3.42	82	114
La Grande	34	64	48	-4	1	-20	0.50	0.15	3	8.74	-4.37	67	83
Union	31	67	50	1	9	-5	0.52	0.17	4	12.31	3.08	133	99
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	33	74	53	-3	24	-23	0.60	0.46	4	6.84	-0.83	89	68
Rome	29	65	45	-7	3	-21	0.29	0.08	5	4.91	-0.68	88	59

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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